

# K-MEANS CLUSTERING

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Let  $x_1, \dots, x_n \in \mathbb{R}^d$ .

Recall that the goal of clustering is to assign the data to disjoint subsets called

(A) \_\_\_\_\_ so that points in the same cluster are more similar than points in different clusters.

Therefore, at the heart of every clustering algorithm is a notion of \_\_\_\_\_.

Often it is more convenient to work with a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Dissimilarity

A dissimilarity matrix is an  $n \times n$  matrix

$$D = [d_{ij}]_{i,j=1}^n$$

which has the following properties

- $d_{ii} = 0$
- $d_{ij} = d_{ji}$
- $d_{ij} \geq 0$

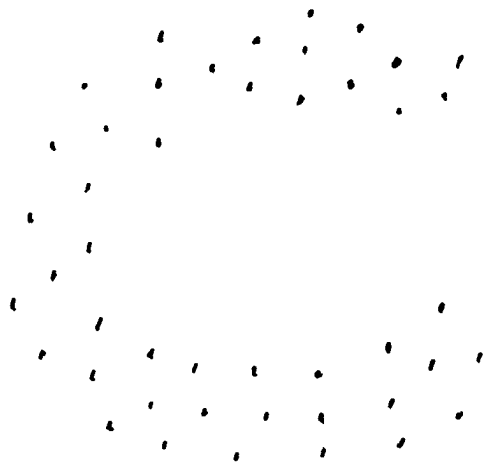
Conceptually, if  $x_i$  is more similar to  $x_j$  than to  $x_k$ , then

(B)

A dissimilarity matrix need not satisfy the triangle inequality:

## Examples

- ©
- Euclidean distance
  - Squared Euclidean distance
  - kNN - based distance



## K-means criterion

A cluster map is a function

$$C: \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, \dots, K\}$$

that partitions the data into  $K$  clusters.

In K-means clustering we

- assume  $K$  is known (more on this later)
- adopt the squared Euclidean distance as a dissimilarity

(D)

$$d_{ij} =$$

- seek to minimize the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

$$W(c) =$$

where

$$n_k =$$

## Algorithm

Ⓔ The K-means criterion is a \_\_\_\_\_ optimization problem. The number of possible cluster maps  $C$  is

$$\frac{1}{K!} \sum_{k=1}^K (-1)^{K-k} \binom{K}{k} k^n \quad (\text{Jain \& Dubes, 1988})$$

$$\begin{cases} = 34,105 & \text{if } n=10, K=4 \\ \approx 10^{10} & \text{if } n=19, K=4 \end{cases}$$

There is no known efficient search strategy for this space. Therefore we resort to an iterative, suboptimal algorithm.

Exercise | Show that

$$W(c) = \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i: c(i)=k} \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|^2$$

where

$$\bar{x}_k := \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i: c(i)=k} x_i$$

# Solution

$$W(c) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i:C(i)=k} \sum_{j:C(j)=k} \underbrace{\|x_i - \bar{x}_k - (x_j - \bar{x}_k)\|^2}$$

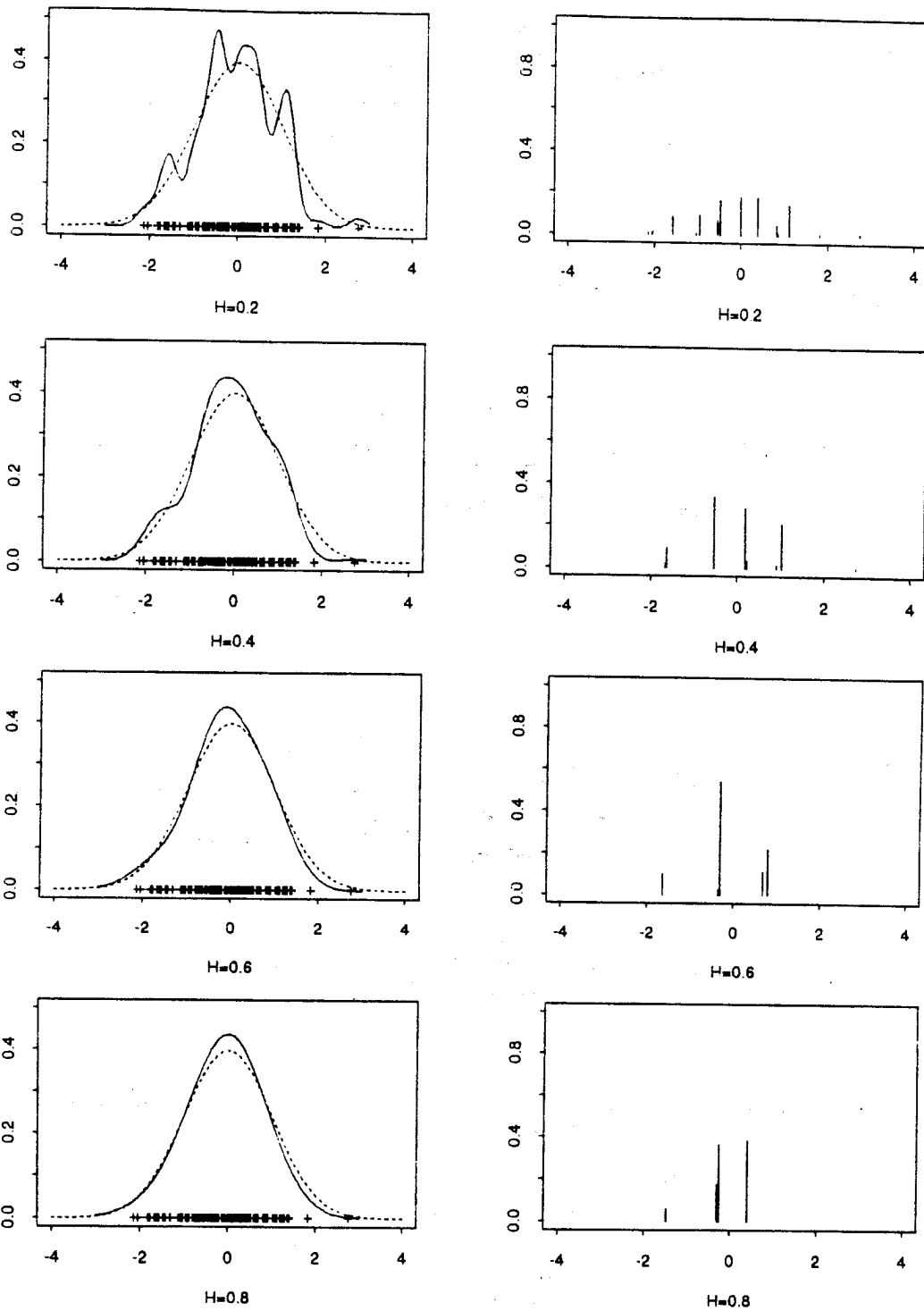
$$\rightarrow \langle x_i - \bar{x}_k - (x_j - \bar{x}_k), x_i - \bar{x}_k - (x_j - \bar{x}_k) \rangle$$

$$= \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|^2 - 2(x_i - \bar{x}_k)^T(x_j - \bar{x}_k) + \|x_j - \bar{x}_k\|^2$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{n_k} \left[ \sum_{i:C(i)=k} \sum_{j:C(j)=k} \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|^2 \right. \\ \left. - 2 \sum_{i:C(i)=k} \sum_{j:C(j)=k} (x_i - \bar{x}_k)^T (x_j - \bar{x}_k) \right. \\ \left. + \sum_{i:C(i)=k} \sum_{j:C(j)=k} \|x_j - \bar{x}_k\|^2 \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^K \frac{1}{n_k} \left[ n_k \cdot \sum_{i:C(i)=k} \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|^2 \right. \\ \left. + n_k \sum_{j:C(j)=k} \|x_j - \bar{x}_k\|^2 \right]$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i:C(i)=k} \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|^2$$



**Figure 2-1-1 (A)** : LSMDE for  $N(0,1)$  with positive weights ( $n=100$ ). The solid line is LSMDE and the dotted line is  $N(0,1)$ .



(G)

1)  $m_k^* =$

2)  $C^*(i) =$

### K-means Clustering Algorithm

Initialize  $\bar{x}_k, k=1, \dots, K$

Repeat

•  $C(i) =$

•  $\bar{x}_k =$

Until clusters don't change

(H)

### Remarks |

- The algorithm is typically initialized by setting each  $\bar{x}_k$  to be a random data point
- Since the algorithm often finds a local min, several random initializations are recommended.

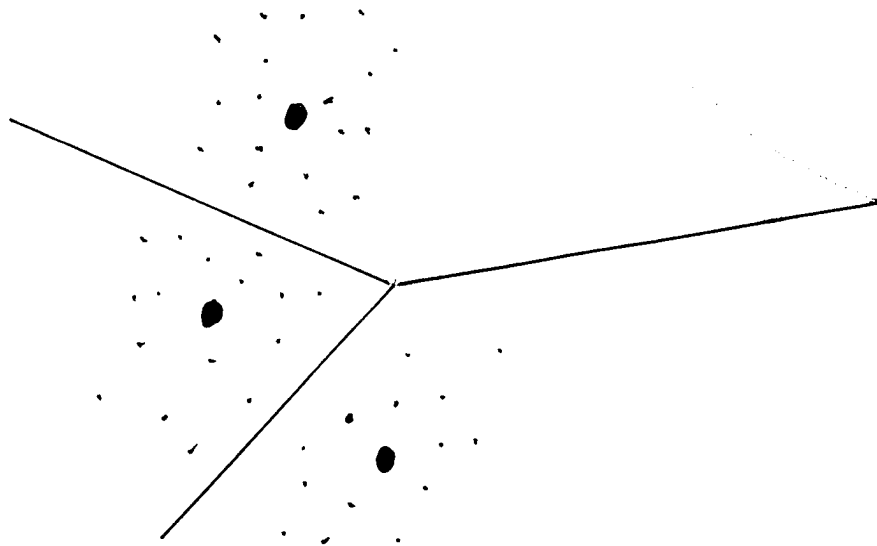
## Cluster Geometry

Clusters are "nearest neighbors"

(I) regions or \_\_\_\_\_ cells  
defined with respect to the cluster means.

Therefore the cluster boundaries are

\_\_\_\_\_



$K=3$

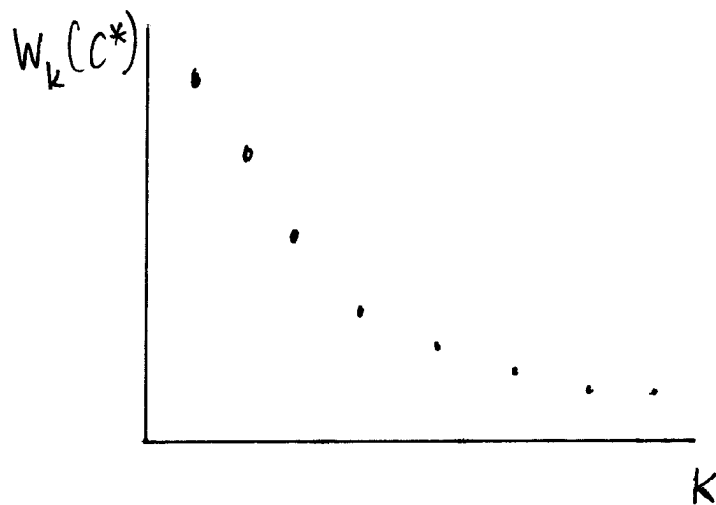
K-means will fail if clusters are

\_\_\_\_\_ .

## Model selection

How to choose  $K$ ?

If  $W_k(C^*)$  is the within-cluster scatter based on  $K$  clusters, we have a plot like this



If the "right" number of clusters is  $K^*$ , we expect

- for  $K < K^*$ ,  $W_k(C^*) - W_{k-1}(C^*)$  will be large
- for  $K > K^*$ ,  $W_k(C^*) - W_{k-1}(C^*)$  will be small

This suggests choosing  $K$  near the "knee" of the curve.

Key

A. clusters, similarity, dissimilarity

B.  $d_{ij} < d_{ik}$

$$d_{ij} + d_{jk} \neq d_{ik}$$

C. •  $\|x - y\| = \left( \sum_{j=1}^d (x^{(j)} - y^{(j)})^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$

•  $\|x - y\|^2$

• length of shortest path on  $k$ -nearest neighbor graph, for some  $k$

D.  $d_{ij} = \|x_i - x_j\|^2$ , within cluster scatter

$$W(C) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^K \sum_{i: C(i)=k} \left[ \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{j: C(j)=k} \|x_i - x_j\|^2 \right]$$

avg. dissim. to points in same cluster

$$n_k = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{\{C(i)=k\}}$$

E. Combinatorial

F.  $\bar{x}_k$

$$G. \quad m_k^* = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i: C(i)=k} x_i$$

$$C^*(i) = \arg \min_k \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|$$

$$H. \quad C(i) = \arg \min_k \|x_i - \bar{x}_k\|$$

$$\bar{x}_k = \frac{1}{n_k} \sum_{i: C(i)=k} x_i$$

I. Voronoi, hyperplanes, nonconvex